

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A system comprising:

a memory device having one or more database therein for maintaining
information relating to a plurality of users and a plurality of devices;

a processor in communication with the memory device, the processor
10 configured to:

(a) identify one or more users using a device selected from the
plurality of devices that are in communication with the processor, wherein the
one or more users are selected from the plurality of users;

(b) identify the device used by each of the one or more users;

(c) determine, for each of the one or more users, a usage amount
15 attributable to the device; and

(d) calculate a user fee for each of the one or more users based on the
identity of the device and the usage amount attributable to the device.

20 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to:

repeat steps (b) through (d) for one or more devices subsequently used
by each of the one or more users.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the processor is further configured to:

25 accumulate a total of user fees for each of the one or more users.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the usage amount is a quantity selected from
the group consisting of time, repetitions, workload and combinations thereof.

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5. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more database maintains rate schedules for each of the plurality of devices.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein one or more of the rate schedules is variable.

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7. The system of claim 5, wherein the one or more of the rate schedules is variable according to a factor selected from time of day, day of the week, device type, device features, device location, concurrent demand for using the device, and combinations thereof.

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8. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to: accumulate the user fee over a period of time comprising two or more sessions of use.

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9. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more devices are exercise devices.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to: display the user fee on the device during use.

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11. A computer program product including instructions embodied on a computer readable medium, the instructions comprising:

(a) storing instructions for storing information relating to a plurality of users and a plurality of devices;

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(b) identifying instructions for identifying one or more users using a device selected from the plurality of devices that are in communication with the processor, wherein the one or more users are selected from the plurality of users;

(c) identifying instructions for identifying the device used by each of the one or more users;

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(d) determining instructions for determining, for each of the one or more users, a usage amount attributable to the device; and

(e) calculating instructions for calculating a user fee for each of the one or more users based on the identity of the device and the usage amount attributable to the device.

12. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:
repeat instructions for repeating steps (b) through (e) for one or more devices subsequently used by each of the one or more users.

13. The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:
accumulating instructions for accumulating a total of user fees for each of the one or more users.

14. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the usage amount is a quantity selected from the group consisting of time, repetitions, workload and combinations thereof.

15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the one or more database maintains rate schedules for each of the plurality of devices.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein one or more of the rate schedules is variable.

17. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the one or more of the rate schedules is variable according to a factor selected from time of day, day of the week, device type, device features, device location, concurrent demand for using the device, and combinations thereof.

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18. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:
accumulating instructions for accumulating the user fee over a period of time
comprising two or more sessions of use.

5 19. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the one or more devices
are exercise devices.

20. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:
display means for displaying the user fee on the device during use.

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21. A method comprising:

(a) storing information in a processor relating to a plurality of users and a
plurality of devices;

15 (b) identifying one or more users using a device selected from the plurality of
devices that are in communication with the processor, wherein the one or more users
are selected from the plurality of users;

(c) identifying the device used by each of the one or more users;

(d) determining, for each of the one or more users, a usage amount attributable
to the device; and

20 (e) calculating a user fee for each of the one or more users based on the
identity of the device and the usage amount attributable to the device.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

25 repeating steps (b) through (e) for one or more devices subsequently
used by each of the one or more users.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising:

accumulating a total of user fees for each of the one or more users.

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24. The method of claim 21, wherein the usage amount is a quantity selected from the group consisting of time, repetitions, workload and combinations thereof.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the one or more database maintains rate
5 schedules for each of the plurality of devices.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein one or more of the rate schedules is variable.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the one or more of the rate schedules is
10 variable according to a factor selected from time of day, day of the week, device type, device features, device location, concurrent demand for using the device, and combinations thereof.

28. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
15 accumulating the user fee over a period of time comprising two or more sessions of use.

29. The method of claim 21, wherein the one or more devices are exercise
devices.

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30. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
displaying the user fee on the device during use.

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31. A system comprising:

a memory device having a fitness database and a dietary database, each database maintaining information relating to a plurality of users;

5 a processor in communication with the memory device, the processor configured to:

(a) identify one or more users using a fitness device selected from a plurality of fitness devices that are in communication with the processor, wherein the one or more users are selected from the plurality of users;

10 (b) accessing fitness records for each of the one or more identified users in the fitness database;

(c) accessing dietary records for each of the one or more identified users in the dietary database; and

15 (d) providing each of the one or more identified users with health advise based upon the fitness records and the dietary records, wherein the health advise is selected from the group consisting of exercise equipment settings, training considerations, exercise body mechanics, food selections, calorie counting, and combinations thereof.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the processor is further configured to:

20 repeat steps (a) through (d) for one or more devices subsequently used by each of the one or more users.

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